



Bus driver shortages are latest challenge hitting U.S. schools

By AMY BETH HANSON and LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — A Montana school district is dangling \$4,000 bonuses and inviting people to test drive big yellow school buses in hopes of enticing them to take a job that schools are struggling to fill as kids return to in-person classes. A Delaware school district offered to pay parents \$700 to take care of their own transportation, and a Pittsburgh district delayed the start of classes and said hundreds more children would have to walk to school. Schools across the U.S. are offering hiring bonuses, providing the training needed to get a commercial driver's license and increasing hourly pay to attract more drivers. The shortage of bus drivers is complicating the start of a school year already besieged by the highly contagious delta variant of COVID-19, contentious disagreement over masking requirements, and the challenge of catching up on educational ground lost as the pandemic raged last year. The driver shortfall isn't new, but a labor shortage across many sectors and the pandemic's lingering effects have made it worse, since about half the workforce was over 65 and more vulnerable to the virus, said Joanna McFarland, co-founder and CEO of school ride-service company HopSkipDrive, which tracks school bus issues.



School buses parked in Helena, Mont., ahead of the beginning of the school year, Friday, Aug. 20, 2021.

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Associated Press

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Bus driver shortages are latest challenge hitting U.S. schools

Continued from Front

Her company conducted a survey in March that found nearly 80% of districts that responded were having trouble finding enough bus drivers.

"It's really at a breaking point," McFarland said.

First Student, a company that contracts bus service for school districts around the county, held test driving events they called "Big Bus, No Big Deal" in Montana and many other states this summer to give people an opportunity to try their hand at driving. The hope



A "Bus Drivers Wanted" sign is shown Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021, in Sandy, Utah.

Associated Press

was that it could remove a barrier to those who otherwise might be interested in helping get kids safely to

and from school, said Dan Redford, with First Student in Helena, Montana.

"We actually set up a

closed course at the fairgrounds, and we invited the public to come in and learn that it's not a big deal to drive a big bus," Redford said. "They're actually pretty easy to drive. You sit up high. You've got plenty of view." In Helena, the company has 50 bus drivers and needs 21 more before classes start on Aug. 30, a shortfall Redford called unprecedented.

Attendance ended up being light at Helena's event, but similar demos, like one held recently in Seattle, led to more applications.

The delta variant also drove the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to recommend universal mask wearing in schools, especially for children too young to be vaccinated. But in many areas, there's a wave of fierce anti-mask protest.

First Student lost some Helena drivers to mask requirements on buses, Redford said.

"I know I've had a lot of drivers that don't believe in that and don't want to have to deal with that," Redford said.

For parents, school bus headaches are coming at an especially difficult time. Monica Huff was at home in quarantine with a likely case of COVID-19 on Wednesday when she learned that her 14-year-old son's school bus didn't show up at his stop in suburban Houston.

"I was worried. I was scared. ... I didn't know where he was," she said. She felt especially helpless because she couldn't leave to get him herself without putting others at risk of infection.

Eventually she learned that the elementary-school bus driver had picked up the older kids and brought them to the high school. She was

relieved to know he arrived at school, though his late start time was also a concern since he's still making up some ground in his studies after falling behind during remote learning early last year. "There's enough to worry about this year with people getting angry about masks," she said.


Republican Gov. Greg Abbott initially prohibited Texas school districts from requiring masks, but successful court challenges led the Texas Education Agency on Thursday to suspend enforcement of his ban while the challenges move through the courts.


In Florida, many of the largest school districts are using managers as drivers and implementing other stop-gap measures to get students to class as the school year begins against a statewide political fight over masks between Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who wants to forbid mask mandates, and districts convinced they're needed to keep kids safe.

President Joe Biden on Wednesday ordered his education secretary to explore possible legal action against states that have blocked school mask mandates and other health measures meant to protect students against COVID-19. Economic forces are also at play in the bus driver shortage. Driving a school bus requires a commercial driver's license that can take weeks to obtain. And people who have them can often find higher-paying work that doesn't require splitting the day for pickup and drop-off. Demand for commercial drivers is only increasing with the pandemic-related surge in online shopping, said McFarland with Hop-SkipDrive. □

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Biden planning to give an update on situation in Afghanistan

By ROBERT BURNS and
DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military is considering “creative ways” to get Americans and others into the Kabul airport for evacuation from Afghanistan amid “acute” security threats, Biden administration officials said, and the Pentagon on Sunday ordered six U.S. commercial airlines to help move evacuees from temporary sites outside of Afghanistan.

At the one-week mark since the Taliban completed its takeover of the country, the U.S.-directed airlift from Kabul continued Sunday even as U.S. officials expressed growing concern about the threat from the Islamic State group. That worry comes on top of obstacles to that mission from the Taliban, as well as U.S. government bureaucratic problems. President Joe Biden met with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and other members of his national security team to discuss the situation in Afghanistan, the White House said, and planned to provide a public update on Afghanistan later in the day. Afghanistan will be the chief topic of discussion when Biden and leaders of the Group of Seven industrialized nations meet virtually on Tuesday.

“The threat is real, it is acute, it is persistent and something we’re focused with every tool in our arse-



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden leave after attending a service at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in the Georgetown section of Washington, Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

nal,” said Biden’s national security adviser, Jake Sullivan.

Sullivan said on CNN’s “State of the Union” that 3,900 people had been airlifted out of Kabul on U.S. military flights over the past 24 hours. A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to provide details not yet made public, said those people were flown on a total of 23 flights — 14 by C-17 transports and nine aboard C-130 cargo planes.

That represents an increase from 1,600 flown out aboard U.S. military planes in the previous 24 hours, but remains far below the 5,000 to 9,000 that the military says it has the capacity to airlift daily. Sullivan also said

about 3,900 people were airlifted on non-U.S. military flights over the past 24 hours.

The Biden administration has given no firm estimate of the number of Americans seeking to leave Afghanistan. Some have put the total between 10,000 and 15,000. Sullivan on Sunday put it at “several thousand.”

Speaking on ABC’s “This Week,” Austin said that as Biden’s Aug. 31 deadline for ending the evacuation operation approaches, he will recommend whether to give it more time. Tens of thousands of Americans and others have yet to be flown out of the country.

Austin’s interview with ABC aired Sunday but was

taped Saturday. In a notice Sunday, the State Department urged people seeking to leave Afghanistan as part of an organized private evacuation effort not come to the Kabul airport “until you have received specific instructions” to do so from the U.S. Embassy’s flight organizer. The notice said that others, including American citizens, who have received specific instructions from the embassy to make their way to the airport should do so. Austin said the airlift would continue for as long as possible.

“We’re gonna try our very best to get everybody, every American citizen who wants to get out, out,” Austin said in the interview.

“And we’ve got -- we continue to look at different ways to -- in creative ways -- to reach out and contact American citizens and help them get into the airfield.” He later said this included non-Americans who qualify for evacuation, including Afghans who have applied for Special Immigrant Visas. Austin noted that the U.S. military on Thursday had used helicopters to move 169 Americans into the airport from the grounds of a nearby hotel in the capital. That is the only announced instance of U.S. forces going beyond the airport to get evacuees.

The British military said Sunday another seven people had been killed in the unceasing crush of crowds outside the airport. The U.S. military took control of the airport for evacuations a week ago as the capital fell to the Taliban. But Taliban forces controlling the streets around the airport, and the throngs of people gathering outside in hope of escape, have made it difficult and dangerous for foreigners and their Afghan allies to get through.

Republicans in Congress stepped up their criticism of Biden’s response. “If the Taliban is saying that Americans can travel safely to the airport, then there is no better way to make sure they get safely to the airport than to use our military to escort them,” GOP Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa, an Army veteran, said on ABC’s “This Week.” □

Rev. Jesse Jackson, wife Jacqueline hospitalized for COVID

CHICAGO (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a famed civil rights leader and two-time presidential candidate, and his wife, Jacqueline, have been hospitalized after testing positive for COVID-19, according to a statement Saturday.

Jesse Jackson, 79, is vaccinated against the virus and received his first dose in January during a publicized event as he urged others to receive the inoculation as soon as possible. He and his wife, 77, are being treated

at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

“Doctors are currently monitoring the condition of both,” according to the statement from Jesse Jackson’s nonprofit, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

“There are no further updates at this time,” the statement said. “We will provide updates as they become available.”

A protégé of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jesse Jackson was key in guiding the modern civil rights move-

ment on numerous issues, including voting rights.

Despite having been diagnosed for Parkinson’s disease, Jackson has remained active, and has advocated for COVID-19 vaccines for Black people, who lag behind white people in the United States’ vaccination drive. Earlier this month, he was arrested outside the U.S. Capitol during a demonstration calling for Congress to end the filibuster in order to support voting rights. □



In this Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 file photo, Rev. Jesse Jackson receives the Pfizer’s BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine from Dr. Kiran Chekka, Covid Administration Physician at the Roseland Community Hospital in Chicago.

Associated Press

At least 10 killed in Tennessee flash floods; dozens missing

By JONATHAN MATTISE and R.J. RICO

Associated Press

WAVERLY, Tenn. (AP) — Rescue crews searched desperately Sunday amid shattered homes and tangled debris for dozens of people still missing after record-breaking rain sent floodwaters surging through Middle Tennessee.

At least 10 people were killed, including twin toddlers who were swept from their father's arms, according to surviving family members. Authorities feared the death toll could rise.

The flooding in rural areas took out roads, cellphone towers and telephone lines, leaving families uncertain about whether their loved ones survived the unprecedented deluge. Emergency workers were searching door to door, said Kristi Brown, a coordinator for health and safety supervisor with Humphreys County Schools.

Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis said many of the missing live in the neighborhoods where the water rose the fastest.

Up to 17 inches (43 centimeters) of rain fell in the county in less than 24 hours Saturday, appearing to shatter the Tennessee record for one-day rainfall by more than 3 inches (8 centimeters), the National Weather Service said.

The hardest-hit areas saw double the rain that area of Middle Tennessee had in the previous worst-case scenario for flooding, me-



A truck and a car sit in a creek Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021, after they were washed away the day before in McEwen, Tenn.

eteorologists said. Lines of storms moved over the area for hours, wringing out a record amount of moisture — a scenario scientists have warned may be more common because of global warming.

The downpours rapidly turned the creeks that run behind backyards and through downtown Waverly into raging rapids. Business owner Kansas Klein stood on a bridge Saturday in the town of 4,500 people and saw two girls who were holding on to a puppy and clinging to a wooden board sweep past, the current too fast for anyone to grab them.

He isn't sure what happened to them. Klein heard that a girl and a puppy

had been rescued downstream, and that another girl was also saved, but he wasn't sure it was them.

By Sunday, the floodwaters were gone, leaving behind debris from wrecked cars, demolished businesses and homes and a chaotic, tangled mix of the things inside. "It was amazing how quick it came and how quick it left," Klein said.

The Humphrey County Sheriff's Office Facebook page filled with people looking for missing friends and family. GoFundMe pages were made asking for help for funeral expenses for the dead, including 7-month-old twins yanked from their father's arms as they tried to escape.

Not far from the bridge,

Klein told The Associated Press by phone that dozens of buildings in a low-income housing area known as Brookside appeared to have borne the brunt of the flash flood.

"It was devastating: buildings were knocked down, half of them were destroyed," Klein said. "People were pulling out bodies of people who had drowned and didn't make it out." Davis told news outlets Saturday about the 10 confirmed deaths and more than 30 people missing in his county, located about 60 miles (96 kilometers) west of Nashville.

The dead ranged from babies to elderly people and included one of his best friends, the sheriff of the

county of 18,000 people told WSVM-TV on Sunday.

"Small town, small community. We know each other. We love each other," Davis said.

Just to the east of Waverly, the town of McEwen was pummeled Saturday with 17.02 inches (43.2 centimeters) of rain, smashing the state's 24-hour record of 13.6 inches (34.5 centimeters) from 1982, according to the National Weather Service in Nashville, though Saturday's numbers would have to be confirmed.

A flash flood watch was issued for the area before the rain started, with forecasters saying 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 centimeters) of rain was possible. The worst storm recorded in this area of Middle Tennessee only dropped 9 inches (23 centimeters) of rain, said Krissy Hurley, a weather service meteorologist in Nashville.

"Forecasting almost a record is something we don't do very often," Hurley said. "Double the amount we've ever seen was almost unfathomable."

Recent scientific research has determined that extreme rain events will become more frequent because of man-made climate change. Hurley said it is impossible to know its exact role in Saturday's flood, but noted in the past year her office dealt with floods that used to be expected maybe once every 100 years in September south of Nashville and in March closer to the city. □



U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., and his girlfriend Ginger Luckey enter "Women for American First" event, Friday, April 9, 2021, in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida eloped to Southern California, marrying his girlfriend

Matt Gaetz elopes to California, marries girlfriend

Ginger Luckey on Saturday in a small ceremony on Catalina Island.

The controversial 39-year-old Republican, who is under investigation as part of a sex trafficking probe, announced the wedding on his personal Twitter page. He exclaimed "I love my wife!" along with a photo of them together — he in a sport coat, she in a white dress.

Vanity Fair reports that Ser-

gio Gor, a former staffer for Sen. Rand Paul, performed the ceremony that was attended by about 40 people. The couple had previously announced they would marry next year.

Gaetz had been in Iowa on Thursday with Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, speaking at a rally that is part of a national tour where they falsely claim the 2020 election was stolen from President Donald Trump and

downplay the COVID-19 pandemic.

Luckey, 26, is from Southern California and works for a company that focuses on extending the life of products made from plant-based materials.

Gaetz is under investigation as part of a probe that led to the arrest and plea deal of his close friend, Joel Greenberg, a former Seminole County, Florida, tax collector. □

EU warns Taliban it has not recognized their regime

By ALICIA LEÓN and
JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — The European Union's top officials warned the Taliban on Saturday that the current conversations being held to secure the exit of as many Afghan evacuees as possible do not mean the bloc is prepared to recognize the new regime.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen acknowledged the necessity of continuing to engage with the Taliban during her visit, along with EU Council President Charles Michel, to a reception center for evacuees established by Spain near Madrid.

"We do have operational contacts with the Taliban in this moment of crisis, because we need to discuss in these difficult times how we can facilitate it for people in Kabul to come to the airport," the EU leader said. "But this is completely distinct and separated from political talks.

There are no political talks with the Taliban and there is no recognition of the Taliban."

She also said the continuance of European humanitarian aid to Afghanistan will hinge on the Taliban respecting human rights,



EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen, right, speaks alongside EU Council President Charles Michel, left, and Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez during a news conference at the Torrejon military airbase in Madrid, Spain, Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

especially for women and girls.

"We hear the Taliban statement that stresses that women will have their right place in society and have the right to study and work, within the framework of Islam, whatever that means. But we also hear more and more reports of people being hunted down for their past work or opinions, and we hear of women being turned away when they show up at their usual workplace," she said. "The

1 billion euros set aside by the European Union for the next seven years for development aid is tied to strict conditions: respect for human rights, good treatment of minorities, and respect for the rights of women and girls."

The EU's top officials toured the facility at the Torrejón military airbase along with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who said it can hold 800 people.

Two planes sent by Spain to Kabul have already ar-

rived at the air base. One brought back five Spaniards and 48 Afghans who had worked for Spain and their families. A second arrived late Friday with 110 more Afghans.

A third flight with another 110 passengers has left Kabul for Dubai, which Spain is using as a stop-off point before the evacuees are flown to Madrid.

The air base is also receiving flights from the European Union with other Afghan evacuees. All are expect-

ed to spend up to three days there before moving to welcome centers elsewhere in Spain or going to other European countries. Sánchez said the response from other EU members has been positive and that some Afghan evacuees have already left for other EU countries.

But the United States and NATO allies are struggling to help Afghans who worked for their forces and now fear reprisals from the Taliban to even reach and enter the Kabul airport.

Von der Leyen said EU staff is talking with American and NATO officials on the problem but also working "on the ground" in Kabul.

"It is a very difficult situation, it is changing by the minute, but there is intense work being done to make the best of a very difficult situation," she said.

Von der Leyen, however, also urged international community to help those Afghans who will remain. She said the collapse of the NATO-backed democracy and the return of the Taliban to power has provoked the displacement of almost 3.7 million people. Many European nations also fear another wave of migration similar to the one in 2015 provoked by Syria's civil war. □

Montenegrins protest inauguration of new Serbian church head

By PREDRAG MILIC

Associated Press

CETINJE, Montenegro (AP)

— Several thousand people demonstrated Sunday in Montenegro over the planned inauguration of the new head of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the small Balkan state.

Ethic tensions have soared over the scheduled ceremony for Metropolitan Bishop Joanikije II. The protesters in Montenegro's former capital, Cetinje, where the Sept. 5 inauguration is to take place, waved Montenegrin flags and chanted slogans against the country's government, accusing it of being pro-Serb.

Hundreds of police officers were deployed in the

city and the U.S. Embassy warned Americans to avoid the protest.

Despite calls to respect COVID-19 health measures, most protesters did not wear masks while chanting "Treason!" and accusing the government of setting the stage for the "occupation" of Montenegro by Serbia.

Montenegro declared independence from the much larger Serbia in 2006. The country is deeply split between residents who consider themselves Montenegrins and those who deny the existence of the Montenegrin nation. About 30% of the country's population of 600,000 identifies as Serb.

Joanikije II is to succeed the Serbian church's previous most senior cleric in Montenegro, Metropolitan Bishop Amfilohije, who died in October after contracting coronavirus. The inauguration ceremony is set for the Cetinje Monastery, which is considered the historic cradle of Montenegrin statehood.

Protest leaders said they do not oppose the naming of a new church leader but are against his enthronement in a shrine that symbolizes Montenegro's centuries-old struggle for sovereignty and independence.

"We will not allow further desecration of Montenegrin shrines by those who don't recognize Montene-



Protesters wave Montenegrin flags during a rally in Montenegro's former capital, Cetinje, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021.

Associated Press

gro as a state and Montenegrins as a nation," Predrag Vusurovic, a protest organizer, told the crowd.

Joanikije said in a statement that it's "a shame" that his inauguration is being challenged. □

Gaza border clashes wound 24 Palestinians, Israeli policeman

By **WAFAA SHURAF**

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

— Israeli gunfire on Saturday wounded 24 Palestinians, including a 13-year-old boy who was shot in the head, health officials said. An Israeli policeman was critically wounded by Palestinian gunfire during the clashes along Gaza's border with Israel.

The violence erupted after hundreds of Palestinians took part in a demonstration Saturday organized by Gaza's Hamas rulers to draw attention to a stifling Israeli blockade of the territory. The demonstration grew violent after dozens of people approached the fortified border fence and threw rocks and explosives toward Israeli soldiers from behind a black smoke screen spewing from burning tires.

The Israeli military said that hundreds of demonstrators approached one area of the fence in northern Gaza and attempted to climb over while throwing explosives at troops. It said that troops fired tear gas and live rounds toward the protesters.

It also said a member of the paramilitary border police was hospitalized in grave condition after being shot. Amateur video from the Palestinian side showed a protester running up to the



A protestor helps a wounded youth, who was shot by Israeli troops in his foot during a protest at the Gaza Strip's border with Israel, into the treatment room of Shifa hospital in Gaza City, Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021.

concrete barrier and firing a pistol into a hole used by an Israeli sniper.

In Gaza, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said 24 Palestinians were wounded by Israeli fire. Two of them, including the 13-year-old boy, were in critical condition.

The violent confrontations were reminiscent of the weekly border demonstrations organized by Gaza's Hamas rulers in 2018 and 2019 to draw attention to Israel's stifling blockade over the tiny seaside territory.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies that have fought

four wars and countless skirmishes since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007, a year after winning a Palestinian election. The most recent war, in May, ended in an inconclusive cease-fire after 11 days of fighting.

Khalil al-Haya, a senior Hamas official, told protesters that the confrontation with Israel "was still open." There has been growing tension in recent weeks, with Hamas calling for Israel to ease the blockade, which greatly restricts movement of people and goods in and out of the ter-

ritory. Israel has imposed the blockade with Egyptian help since 2007, saying it is needed to prevent Hamas from arming itself.

In a statement, the Israeli army said troops responded with live rounds after hundreds of Palestinians demonstrated at the Gaza-Israeli border.

During the border protests in 2018 and 2019, over 350 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire. The protests ground to a halt after mediators, including Egypt, Qatar and the United Nations brokered an unofficial deal in which Israel eased some

of its economic restrictions on Gaza and allowed Qatar to deliver tens of millions of dollars in monthly payments to needy Gaza families and Hamas salaries.

Since the May war, the new Israeli government, headed by Naftali Bennet, has blocked the Qatari aid, calling for a mechanism to ensure Hamas doesn't benefit from the cash. It also has blocked the import of key reconstruction materials while demanding that Hamas first return the remains of two soldiers killed in a 2014 war and two Israeli civilians believed to be alive.

Running out of patience, Hamas called for Saturday's protest to signal its frustration with Israel delaying the Qatari cash injections.

On Thursday, however, Israel announced an agreement with the Gulf Arab country to resume aid payments to thousands of families in the Gaza Strip step aimed at easing tensions with the Palestinian territory in the wake of the war. Under the new arrangement, the funds are to be transferred by the United Nations directly to Gaza families, while giving Israel oversight over the the list of recipients.

The payments are expected to begin in the coming weeks. □

Associated Press



In this July 20, 2016 file photo, Israeli Dani Dayan speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Jerusalem.

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's government approved Sunday the appointment of a former diplomat and settler leader as the new director of Yad Vashem, the

country's official Holocaust remembrance organization.

Yad Vashem announced that Dani Dayan, 65, was tapped as chairman of

Israel taps former settler leader as new head of Yad Vashem

the organization's directorate. Until recently, Dayan served as Israel's consul general in New York.

Before that, he headed the Yesha council, an umbrella organization representing Israeli settlers living in the occupied West Bank. Dayan himself lives in a settlement.

Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, serves as both a museum and research institution. It's a venerable body that hosts foreign dignitaries who arrive in Israel, welcomes nearly one million visitors each year and

leads the country's annual Holocaust memorial day.

Dayan's appointment came more than a year after longtime director Avner Shalev announced his retirement. Last year the government reportedly planned to nominate a hard-line religious nationalist ex-general, Effie Eitam, to the post. But Eitam was not tapped after vocal opposition to his appointment surfaced due to controversial remarks he made about Palestinians.

Despite calls by an umbrella group representing Holocaust survivors that Yad

Vashem appoint a director with a background in Holocaust research, Dayan was nominated for the position earlier this month by Education Minister Yifat Shasha-Biton.

The Argentina-born Dayan ran in March 23 parliamentary elections with the New Hope party along with Shasha-Biton, but he did not win a seat in the Knesset.

"Leading Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, is more than a position; it is a mission and one I take on with awe and reverence," Dayan said in a statement. □



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Haitians return to quake-damaged churches, gangs offer aid

By EVENS SANON and MAR-KO ALVAREZ

Associated Press

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP) — Haitians resumed services in or outside damaged churches on Sunday, sometimes for the first time since the devastating Aug. 14 earthquake, as the country's Civil Protection Agency raised the toll from the magnitude 7.2 temblor to 2,207.

The new toll comes at a time when relief operations are expanding, but authorities have struggled with security at distribution points. Gangs have hijacked aid trucks and even ambulances, forcing relief workers to transport supplies by helicopter. In places, desperate crowds have scuffled over bags of food.

On Sunday, one of the capital's most powerful



Parishioners attend a mass on the grounds next to an earthquake-damaged church in Les Cayes, Haiti, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021, eight days after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the area.

Associated Press

gangsters announced in a social media video that his allied gangs had reached a truce and would assist in relief efforts. If that proves to be true, it might allow an acceleration of relief efforts. Jimmy Cherizier, alias

"Barbecue," leader of G9 Revolutionary Forces, addressed a Facebook video to the hardest-hit parts of the Haiti's southwestern peninsula. "We want to tell them that the G9 Revolutionary Forces and allies,

all for one and one for all, sympathize with their pain and sorrows," Cherizier said. "The Revolutionary Forces G9 and allies ... will participate in the relief by bringing them help. We invite all compatriots to show solidarity with the victims by trying to share what little there is with them."

The increase in the death toll was the first since late Wednesday when the government put it at 2,189. The government said Sunday that 344 people were still missing, 12,268 people were injured and nearly 53,000 houses were destroyed by the quake.

In Les Cayes, many attended church to mourn those lost and give thanks for their own survival.

At an evangelical church in the Bergeaud neighbor-

hood, parishioners sang hymns under beams of sunlight streaming through holes in the roof and walls. Pastor Sevrain Marc Dix Jonas, said Sunday's service was special because until now his congregation had been unable to meet since the quake.

"Today was a must," Dix Jonas said, standing below a gaping opening high in his church's facade. "To thank God. He protected us. We did not die." His church was one of the few where congregants could worship inside. At many others, services were held in the street outside collapsed sanctuaries. Taking that into account, the Roman Catholic church in Les Cayes moved its morning service to 6:30 a.m. to avoid the heat of day. □

Hurricane Grace hits Mexico's Gulf coast, dissipates; 8 dead

By FÉLIX MÁRQUEZ and FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ

Associated Press

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)

— Hurricane Grace swept onto Mexico's Gulf coast as a major Category 3 storm and moved inland Saturday, drenching coastal and inland areas in its second landfall in the country in two days. At least eight people died, authorities said.

The storm had lost power while crossing over the Yucatan Peninsula on Thursday, swirling through Mexico's main tourist strip, but it rapidly drew strength from the relatively warm Gulf of Mexico before reaching the Mexican coast again late Friday.

At least eight people, including children, died and three were missing after mudslides and flooding, said Cuicláhuac García, governor of Mexico's Veracruz state. García said



A woman begins clearing debris from her kitchen after a part of her home was damaged by winds brought on by Hurricane Grace, in Tecolutla, Veracruz State, Mexico, Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

330,000 people lost power in the storm but it was gradually being restored.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Grace quickly weakened to a tropical

storm as it churned over mountainous areas in central Mexico east of Mexico City and then dissipated at midafternoon.

The storm caused rivers to

overflow and landslides in places and some evacuations were needed, Veracruz authorities said.

In the coastal town of Tecolutla, Esteban Dominguez

examined the wreckage of his home. He said the family home had withstood a previous hurricane, but this time the walls couldn't stand up to the battering.

"The night was shocking, very shocking, and worrying because it went so beyond normal," Dominguez said.

Hours before nearing shore on Friday, Grace caused strong winds, high waves and rain in the Veracruz communities of Tuxpan, Poza Rica, Xalapa and Veracruz city as well as in coastal towns in the states of Tabasco and Tamaulipas, Mexico's meteorological agency said.

Fishermen pulled their boats out of the water and carried them inside harbors to prevent damage as the storm's leading edge whipped at the coast. Merchants boarded up the windows of their businesses to protect them. □

LOCAL



Over 125,000 Fit2fly tests completed!

PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers just completed test number 125,000 since starting testing services at the beginning of the year. With six locations at various resorts on the island and two walk-in locations are at the Cove Mall and near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill, it is one of the largest test centers on island.

MedCare's fit2fly test centers offer your best option for the post vacation COVID-19 test which has been a requirement since January 26th 2021 by the U.S. before returning home. All passengers going to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative (antigen or PCR) COVID-19 test result of a test taken maximum three days prior to boarding the flight, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. MedCare's testing centers in and close to the hotels provide you with an easy and secure solution.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that is specialized in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).

NAAT Test

As Aruba resumes to receive more and more visitors each month, one thing has become very clear: testing is critical. Thus far MedCare Clinic has been offering high-volume laboratory testing with results in 24 hours or less. The newest service on the market is NAAT test, where you receive your results in minutes not hours.

Just steps away from you

The Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers are located at the Cove Mall and near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill. These two locations at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation



accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome. It is recommended that the tests are done timely, as the negative test is only accepted if taken up to three days before boarding your flight. MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM.

At your hotel

For a selection of hotels/resorts in Aruba, MedCare has setup Testing Centers on site. The hotels/resorts at which we have a testing site are: Divi All Inclusive, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Golf, Divi Phoenix, Divi Tamarijn, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort, Hyatt Regency, Renaissance, and the Ritz-Carlton Resort. Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

Costs and timing

Passengers must be tested with a viral test that could be either an Antigen Test or a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), such as the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The price for the Antigen Test is only \$50, and the PCR Test is available, for \$125, The new NAAT will be \$150 (results in 30 minutes.) MedCare offers the easier and substantially cheaper Antigen Test that is acceptable for travel to the U.S. as per the CDC guidelines. Pre-travel testing is not covered by the Aruban visitor insurance. Please contact your insurance company to verify if testing costs are insured. Results are e-mailed to you within 24 hours of testing.

Private bookings

For your convenience, Medcare also offers private testing at your accommodation/hotel room for a one-time service fee of \$120. This fee covers testing up to 10 people (one appointment, at one location and a specific time). Additional persons will be charged \$10 per person. Regular testing fees applies. □



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Covid-19 Status on Aruba

Rules and protocols are being reviewed and evaluated on a daily basis and adapted as per current situation by a crisis team, in order to protect each and every one visiting and residing our island.

Current numbers

There are currently 747 active Covid cases on the island. 693 residents and 54 non-residents. There are 65 persons hospitalized of which 12 are in ICU Aruba and 14 in ICU in Colombia. 126 persons lost their battle against the Covid virus of which 2 of them are non-resident.

Measures taken by the Government of Aruba effective as of Sunday August 22, 2021 till September 1, 2021:

- Curfew in effect from 10:00pm until 5:00am. Nobody is allowed outside during those times.
- Closing time for all establishments except at hotels is 9:00pm until 5:00am. (Check with your hotel for closing times at establishments there.)
- All Casino's must close at 9pm.
- Maximum of four people at a table at restaurants. Children under 12 do not count towards the maximum numbers. This is for both inside and outside.
- Nightlife establishments can only have table service.
- No live music except as background music by one musician only, and no dancing at clubs, bars, establishments. This includes hotels/resorts.
- No forming of large groups and no events. Social gatherings such as parties or gatherings at home or any other place are not allowed.
- Commercial spaces such as cinemas, convenience stores, supermarkets, funerals, churches, etc. will be limited to 50% capacity.
- Sports will be limited to practice only. No form of competition is allowed.
- Masks are mandatory indoors everywhere on the island.
- Practice Social distance at all times.
- Location ban on beaches and parking lots between 10:00pm until 5:00am. Nobody is allowed on beaches and in public parking lots at those times.
- No alcohol in public areas including beaches unless drinking at a resort or establishment. It is prohibited to have alcohol on any public beaches, parking lots, parks, or in any public place unless it is a licensed establishment.
- Schools will open on September 1st. They were supposed to open on August 19th
- All visitors ages 15 and older flying to Aruba must wear a mask on the airplane and in the airport in Aruba.
- As of Wednesday August 25th the age of people that need to be tested before arriving to Aruba (or at arrival) will now be 12 and older. This was previously 15 and older.
- Insurance coverage is \$15 per person for the duration of the stay up to 180 days.

More information on travel and health requirements can be found on www.aruba.com. □

First women's STT (SVT) in Aruba starts

SAVANETA -The very first training of the Social Training Trajectory (SVT) with women will start on Monday 23 August 2021. A total of 15 women show up at Marine Barracks Savaneta for their one-year training. Until now, training was only organized for men. The opening to women is a result of a new covenant that the government of Aruba and Defense signed together earlier this year.

The Social Training Trajectory is a training that consists of a military training part and an internship part. The training is intended for young people with a social disadvantage, who often have to deal with social problems. In the training, the young people learn values such as cooperation, respect, regularity, responsibility and discipline. They receive basic military training and at the end of the training part they earn a beret and certificate. After this, the young people have to do an eight-month internship in combination with following various courses/workshops, after which they complete the entire training. The young people are then prepared for a promising next step in civil society. The military training part of the SVT lasts four months and is given at Marine Barracks Savaneta. The instructors are soldiers of the ARUMIL (Aruban Soldiers). The Aruban government also makes staff available for the training. During the military phase, the young people learn, among other things, exercise, they do a lot of sports, they receive self-defense lessons and they go on bivouac. They conclude the military phase with a final exercise that lasts a week.

Covenant

In February of this year, the government of Aruba and Defense jointly signed a new covenant. The covenant is an elaboration of previously agreed agreements in the National Packages. From 2021, two training courses for men or women per year will be given on a structural basis, with a maximum of 30 people per training.

Special visit

At the end of the first day, the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes, and the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Mr. Glenbert Croes and a delegation, visit the women. □



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Hilton Hotel.



Marouska Heyliger, representative of the Aruba Tourism Authority and on behalf of the Government of Aruba, together with members of Hilton Hotel bestowed the certificate to the Ambassador and handed some presents to the honorees and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his vacation destination and as his home away from home for so many years.

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the pleasure of honoring a very important guests of Hilton Hotel as a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. This guest has

been coming to Aruba for many years consecutively.

The honoree was **Mr. Michael Saul**, resident of Staten Island New York.

Top reasons for returning to his beloved island are:

The warm inviting sun
The gracious treatment from everyone
The Sea & Climate
Amazing People. ☐

Prohibited by law: Tourist leaving the island with seashells, white sand and corals

ORANJESTAD — For the last months the customs department at the airport intercepted many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and corals as souvenirs.

Conform the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is completely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba, this in order to protect our environment. The high amount of seashell, sand and corals confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the once selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable. Upon confiscation at the airport the tourist also faces a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop selling these to our tourist. We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals. Let's all protect what is ours! ☐

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Pop-up restaurants may stick around as COVID sees resurgence

By MAE ANDERSON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pop-up restaurants, many started as stopgap measures by struggling chefs and owners, may have staying power as consumers continue to embrace takeout and delivery and the delta variant threatens to make dining in less of an option.

Pop-up restaurants can take a variety of forms, from a ramen maker appearing for one-night only at an established bar or restaurant, to a taco maker using an unused space to temporarily host diners, to a chef offering meatballs for delivery only.

Cheaper to operate than regular restaurants because they have less overhead and staffing costs, pop-ups let chefs and owners keep working and making a living during the early part of the pandemic when dining rooms were closed and the economy was teetering. They've helped bring buzz to existing restaurants that host them. And some have even morphed into permanent new businesses.

Now, as re-openings across the country are threatened by a rise in COVID-19 cases, pop-up creators and hosts are asking, "What next?"

The restaurant industry has been one of the hardest-hit during the pandemic. It is still down 1 million jobs from the pre-pandemic employ-



Hathorne restaurant owner John Stephenson holds a sign for a pop-up restaurant which will cover the Hathorne sign when that restaurant is open, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

ment level of 12.3 million. Restaurant sales in 2020 totaled \$659 million, down \$240 million from expected levels, according to the National Restaurant Federation. Sales rebounded this year as the economy recovered and restrictions were lifted, but now some economists are paring back expectations for U.S. economic growth, partly because they expect fewer people to dine out.

"2021 is definitely a year of transition for the restaurant industry," said Hudson Riehle, senior vice president of research for the National Restaurant Federation. "The industry is still being

substantially challenged by the COVID situation."

The flexibility of the take-out and delivery model helped Alex Thaboua meet those challenges. Thaboua is co-owner of Electric Burrito, which began as a pop-up at Mister Paradise bar in New York in 2020. A permanent location opened in May and is focused on take-out and delivery, so even if there is another lockdown, the restaurant will be able to operate, he said.

"This flexibility was something we found very important during our pop-up stages, when the world was getting locked down and

heavy restrictions were being placed on businesses," he said. "We've designed our operations in a way that we can continue to operate with a lean team, with every safety precaution taken, to be able to serve guests in both a to-go and delivery capacity." Hathorne, a restaurant in Nashville, has hosted about 10 pop-ups featuring local area chefs since the pandemic began. For the pop-ups, it is a way to get exposure and have access to a full kitchen. For Hathorne, it's a way to fill seats on nights they'd ordinarily be empty. Since reopening for in-person dining in Octo-

ber, the restaurant is open just Wednesday through Saturday.

"We knew, when we reopened, we were not going to be able to be open six or seven days a week because staffing and business wasn't going to be there," said John Stephenson, Hathorne's owner. "I knew that I wanted to utilize the space."

A Nashville chef for decades, Stephenson knew a number of chefs who were trying to stay afloat during the pandemic with projects like creating take-out dinners or starting food trucks, he said.

The first pop up at Hathorne started in October, with a Mexican theme from Julio Hernandez centered around his homemade tortilla. It was a success, and more pop ups followed. Currently, Hathorne hosts Michael Hanna's focaccia-based pizza company, St. Vito Focacciarria, every Sunday.

Hanna and his staff get work and "it keeps people coming in our doors," Stephenson says. The arrangement with St. Vito is long-term, so he hired Hanna as a chef. Hanna gets a percentage of the Sunday sales; Hathorne pays for all products and labor.

Stephenson said he plans to keep on having pop ups even after the pandemic wanes rather than reopening full time. □

Judge: California ride-hailing law is unconstitutional

By BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge Friday struck down a California ballot measure that exempted Uber and other app-based ride-hailing and delivery services from a state law requiring drivers to be classified as employees eligible for benefits and job protections. Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch ruled that Proposition 22 was unconstitutional.

Voters approved the measure in November after Uber, Lyft and other services spent \$200 million in its favor, making it the most expensive ballot measure in state history.

Uber said it planned to appeal, setting up a fight that could likely end up in the California Supreme Court. "This ruling ignores the will of the overwhelming majority of California voters and defies both logic and the law," company spokesman Noah Edward-

sen said. "You don't have to take our word for it: California's attorney general strongly defended Proposition 22's constitutionality in this very case."

He said the measure will remain in force pending the appeal. The judge sided with three drivers and the Service Employees International Union in a lawsuit that argued the measure improperly removed the state Legislature's ability to grant workers the right to access to the



In this Aug. 28, 2019, file photo dozens of supporters of a measure to limit when companies can label workers as independent contractors circle the Capitol during a rally in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

state workers' compensation program. "For two years, drivers have been saying that democracy cannot be bought. And

today's decision shows they were right," said Bob Schoonover, president of the SEIU California State Council. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Start of a Caesar quote
- 6 Encrusted
- 11 Water lily's kin
- 12 Rust compound
- 13 A bunch
- 14 Varnish ingredient
- 15 River stoppers
- 17 Pig's place
- 18 Thoughtful and logical
- 22 Bitterness
- 23 Enjoys the reef
- 27 Lunkheads
- 29 Find darling
- 30 Arrangements
- 32 Sketched
- 33 Very easy
- 35 Gratuily
- 38 Pine or palm
- 39 French farewell
- 41 Modify
- 45 From the neighborhood
- 46 King or czar
- 47 Healer Barton
- 48 Like cacti

DOWN

- 1 Sick
- 2 Pigeon sound
- 3 — loss (confused)
- 4 Confused
- 5 School paper
- 6 Island north of Sardinia
- 7 Chopping tool
- 8 Smooch
- 9 Fix text
- 10 Turn down
- 16 Peaks: Abbr.
- 18 Basics
- 19 Cairo's river
- 20 Bunches
- 21 Got cozy together
- 24 Tedious sort
- 25 Son of Zeus
- 26 Uses a needle
- 28 Kitchen tool
- 31 Knight's title
- 34 Approaches
- 35 Soft mineral
- 36 Revered one
- 37 Print unit
- 40 Corn spike
- 42 Oscar winner
- 43 Writing tool
- 44 Attempt

B	U	S	E	D		H	O	O	P	S
I	N	T	R	O		A	R	R	O	
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				A	T	O	M	S		
				H	I	D	E	K	I	
				B	A	S	E	D	O	N
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Saturday's answer

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11						12			
13						14			
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27				28		29			
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			33		34				
35	36	37		38					
39			40			41	42	43	44
45						46			
47						48			

R.23

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

R N I O Z K L O R Z D O Y K C C O R Z

F V V N L H G K R D L O I Z K I G K J O

K R Z N J K I U X N A W R O G J .

— G A K R F J O W I F I U F V K V O W N

Saturday's Cryptoquote: LOVE AND COMPASSION ARE NECESSITIES. NOT LUXURIES. WITHOUT THEM, HUMANITY CANNOT SURVIVE. — DALAI LAMA



In this file photo dated March 6, 1961, singer Josephine Baker poses in her dressing room at the Strand Theater in New York City, USA.

Associated Press

Josephine Baker is 1st Black woman given Paris burial honor

PARIS (AP) — The remains of American-born singer and dancer Josephine Baker will be reinterred at the Pantheon monument in Paris, making the entertainer who is a World War II hero in France the first Black woman to get the country's highest honor.

Le Parisien newspaper reported Sunday that French President Emmanuel Macron decided to organize a ceremony on Nov. 30 at the Paris monument, which houses the remains of scientist Marie Curie, French philosopher Voltaire, writer Victor Hugo and other French luminaries.

The presidential palace confirmed the newspaper's report.

After her death in 1975, Baker was buried in Monaco, dressed in a French military uniform with the medals she received for her role as part of the French Resistance during the war.

Baker will be the fifth woman to be honored with a Pantheon burial and will also be the first entertainer honored.

Holocaust survivor Simone Veil, one of France's most revered politicians, was buried at the Pantheon in 2018. The other women are two who fought with the

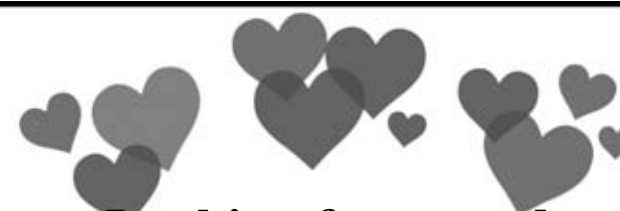
French Resistance during World War II — Germaine Tillion and Genevieve de Gaulle-Anthonioz — and Nobel Prize-winning chemist Curie. The monument also holds the remains of 72 men.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Baker became a megastar in the 1930s, especially in France, where she moved in 1925 as she was seeking to flee racism and segregation in the United States.

Baker quickly became famous for her "banana skirt" dance routines and

wowed audiences at the Theatre des Champs-Elysees and later at the Folies Bergere in Paris.

She became a French citizen after her marriage to industrialist Jean Lion in 1937. During World War II, she joined the French Resistance. Amid other missions, she collected information from German officials she met at parties and carried messages hidden in her underwear to England and other countries, using her star status to justify her travels. □



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A mixed box office weekend as 'Free Guy' tops again

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Four new films with major stars from Hugh Jackman to Michael Keaton opened in North American movie theaters this weekend and only the one with animated puppies fared well. But it wasn't enough to beat out Ryan Reynolds' action-comedy "Free Guy," which topped the charts for the second weekend running. "PAW Patrol: The Movie," a Paramount release targeted at very young kids that's also streaming on Paramount+, earned \$13 million in ticket sales according to studio estimates Sunday. It was by far the best of the new openers, which included three adult-skewing films that failed to find significant audiences: The action pic "The Protégé," with Keaton and Maggie Q, the sci-fi thriller "Reminiscence," which is also streaming on HBO Max, and the well-reviewed Rebecca Hall horror "The Night House."

First place went to "Free Guy," a 20th Century and Disney release that's playing exclusively in theaters. It dropped a miniscule 34% and added \$18.8 million this weekend, bringing its global total to \$112 million. The studio attributed the strong hold to good word of mouth.

"Free Guy" is a movie that harkens back to the days when strong word of mouth and a really engaged star, Ryan Reynolds, combine to make for a great theatrical-first release," said Comscore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "It shows that a theatrical-first release even in today's unusual marketplace can have legs. It feels very 2019, not pandemic-era."

The relative success of "PAW Patrol" came as a bit of a surprise, even to those involved. Although the movie is based on an immensely popular Nickelodeon series, its target audience of under 6-year-olds is a wild card. Delta variant concerns and its availability to stream at home made it even more of a moving target.

Chris Aronson, the presi-



This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Jodie Comer, left, and Ryan Reynolds in a scene from "Free Guy."

Associated Press

dent of domestic distribution for Paramount Pictures said the weekend was a "Very nice, very pleasant surprise."

"It's a younger skewing audience and we're in interesting times, but I think our marketing teams, both on our side and the exhibition side, did a terrific job at getting the message out," Aronson said. "The pups are very beloved and have a very, very loyal audience." The studio said the audience who turned out to theaters was diverse (41% white, 34% Hispanic and 20% Black) and predominately comprised of families with very young children. Aronson also noted that for the younger kids, "PAW Patrol" is likely their first experience in a movie theater ever.

Celebrities who voiced characters in "PAW Patrol" included Tyler Perry, Jimmy

Kimmel, Yara Shahidi and Kim Kardashian.

Disney's "Jungle Cruise," which is available to rent on Disney+ for \$30, landed in third place in its fourth weekend in release. So far, the Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt action-adventure has grossed \$174 million globally.

In its first weekend, Millennium Media's "The Protégé," starring Keaton, Q and Samuel L. Jackson, earned \$2.9 million from 2,577 locations. Distributed by Lionsgate, the Martin Campbell-directed action pic about Q's assassin character Anna, who is seeking justice, got mixed-to-positive reviews.

Searchlight's "The Night House," which was very well-reviewed, didn't connect with its opening weekend audience, who gave it a C- CinemaScore. The indie horror about a re-

cently widowed woman played by Hall grossed an estimated \$2.9 million from 2,240 locations. It's one of several Warner Bros.' adult-skewing films that have underwhelmed with the hybrid release strategy, including the thrillers "Those Who Wish Me Dead," with Angelina Jolie and "The Little Things," with Denzel Washington. The studio is releasing all of its 2021 slate on HBO Max and in theaters simultaneously.

"I think there is a consumer confusion," Dergarabedian said of the many hybrid release strategies. "When people are faced with myriad options, they have to figure out how when and where they can get that content. To rise above the noise, you really have to have a film that's buzzworthy. 'Free Guy' is that buzzworthy movie and it's only available in theaters." Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. □



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Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera hits 500th career home run

TORONTO (AP) — Detroit Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera became the 28th major league player to hit 500 home runs, reaching the milestone in the sixth inning Sunday against the Toronto Blue Jays.

The 38-year-old Cabrera connected on a 1-1 pitch from left-hander Steven Matz, sending the ball over the scoreboard in right-center field. Measured at 400 feet, the homer tied it at 1. The 14,685 fans at Rogers Centre rose for a standing ovation as Cabrera rounded the bases. After celebrating with his teammates, the Tigers slugger came out of the dugout to accept a curtain call, taking off his helmet and bowing to the crowd behind Detroit's dugout.

Cabrera, who won the Triple Crown and the first of back-to-back MVP awards in 2012, is the first Venezuelan to hit 500 homers. He is hoping to become the first hitter to reach 500 homers and 3,000 hits in the same season.

His 500th home run was hit No. 2,955 of his career, and he can reach that 3,000 milestone this year, too, if he can stay healthy and average one hit per game. Only six players have 3,000



Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera hits his 500th career home run in the sixth inning against the Toronto Blue Jays during a baseball game in Toronto, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021.

Associated Press

hits and 500 homers: Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Rafael Palmeiro, Albert Pujols, Alex Rodriguez and Eddie Murray. His pursuit of these big numbers has become a bright spot for a Detroit team that finally seems to be emerging from a difficult rebuild, approaching a .500 record.

Cabrera is the sixth player born outside the United States to reach 500 homers. He joins Pujols, Palmeiro, Sammy Sosa, Manny

Ramirez and David Ortiz, who reached the mark in 2015 and was the last to pull off the feat before Cabrera. He is also the first player to reach the mark in a Tigers uniform.

In 2012, Cabrera became the first player in 45 years to win the Triple Crown by leading the league in batting average, home runs, and RBIs.

When Cabrera made his major league debut with the Marlins in 2003, he was

just 20 years old. He helped them win the World Series that year.

The Tigers acquired him in a trade with the Marlins in 2007, a year after losing the World Series to St. Louis, in the hopes that he would help them win a world championship for the first time since 1984.

However, the Tigers have never won it all with the slugging superstar. They lost in the 2012 World Series to San Francisco and later in

the decade went into a rebuilding mode that bottomed out with 310 losses between 2017-19.

Cabrera's hitting and his jovial on-field demeanor made him popular in Detroit, but his production has dipped significantly in recent years as age and injuries caught up with him.

While other Tigers such as superstar pitcher Justin Verlander were traded away, Cabrera's declining value and huge contract made him difficult to move. His 500th homer was his 13th this season, his highest total since 2017.

Although Cabrera was in striking distance of both the home run and hit milestones when the season started, no one knew how those pursuits would go because of his recent struggles at the plate. He homered on opening day in the snow, but by the All-Star break, he had gone deep just seven times and there were doubts he could pull off the feat this year.

He has picked up the pace since then, hitting six home runs and reaching 500 with time to spare in 2021.

Cabrera is just behind Hall of Famer Eddie Murray, who ranks 27th on the career list with 504 home runs. □

Caruso wins 9th Vuelta stage, Roglic keeps overall lead

ALTO DE VELEFIQUE, Spain (AP) — Damiano Caruso won the ninth stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Sunday, with Primož Roglic finishing second to keep the overall lead.

Caruso was in front for the last 70 kilometers (43 miles) of the 188-kilometer (116-mile) ride from Puerto Lumbreras to a summit finish atop the beyond-category Alto de Velefique.

Caruso was coming off a second-place finish overall at the Giro d'Italia, his best finish yet at a Grand Tour race. "It's incredible for me to achieve this after the Giro," said Caruso, the Italian rider for Bahrain Victorious. "The last climb was so long. I knew it was getting tight. I focused on my own tempo. When we



La Vuelta's cyclists cross Major street during the fourth stage between Burgo de Osma and Molina de Aragon, 163.9 kilometers of La Vuelta cycling race in Burgo de Osma, northern Spain, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

did the last few kilometers, I realized I had a chance to win."

Caruso finished more than a minute ahead of Roglic, the Vuelta's two-time de-

fending champion. Enric Mas was third, crossing the line just behind Roglic.

Roglic's strong finish gave him a 28-second gap to Mas in the overall standings. Miguel Angel Lopez was third overall, more than a minute behind Roglic. Riders have their first rest day on Monday ahead of a mostly flat stage with a single mountain pass near the end.

"We deserve the rest day," Roglic said. "It was a hard day. Again it was super hot, with some big climbs so I'm looking forward to tomorrow (Monday). It's the beginning. Now we have the rest day and we need to stay in one piece with the full team and I'm looking forward to the next stages."

The three-week Grand Tour race finishes at Santiago de Compostela. □

Manny Pacquiao loses to Yordenis Ugás by unanimous decision

By **GREG BEACHAM**

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Although Manny Pacquiao hasn't decided what his future holds, the eight-division world champion realizes his 26-year professional boxing career might have ended Saturday night with a disheartening loss.

Yordenis Ugás is only seven years younger than the Filipino senator, yet he's just getting started after seizing this improbable opportunity to knock off one of the greats. Ugás beat Pacquiao by unanimous decision in Las Vegas, putting on an impressive technical performance on 11 days' notice and retaining his WBA welterweight title. "He's a great competitor, but I came in here to show I am the champion of the WBA," Ugás said. "A lot of respect for him, but I won this fight." Ugás (27-4) capitalized on this chance as the late injury replacement for Errol Spence Jr.. The Cuban veteran was slightly better than Pacquiao (67-8-2) throughout one of the most frustrating fights in the 42-year-old Filipino senator's career.

"I did my best tonight, but my best wasn't good enough," Pacquiao said. "No excuses. I wanted to fight for the title in the ring, and tonight the champion is named Ugás."

A visibly disappointed Pacquiao said he hasn't decided whether he will fight again after an unimpressive performance in his return from the longest layoff of his quarter-century in the sport. He also wouldn't confirm whether he will enter the Philippines' presidential race, as is widely expected. He intends to make an announcement next month.

"In the future, you may not see Manny Pacquiao again to fight in the ring," Pacquiao said. "I don't know, but I'm so happy for what I've accomplished."

The 35-year-old Ugás threw roughly half as many punches as Pacquiao, but his blows were more precise and more effective. Pacquiao was the solid fa-

vorite before the bout, but he struggled to get inside on Ugás' effective jab while Ugás landed his right hand to increasing effect in the later rounds. Two judges scored it 116-112 for Ugás, and a third had it 115-113. The Associated Press also scored it 116-112 for Ugás. Pacquiao also said his legs were cramping from the second round onward. He attributed the problem to a combination of overtraining and age.

"I think it was too much hard work," Pacquiao said. "But I'm not young anymore. So I don't know."

The victory was the culmination of a lengthy journey for Ugás, who defected from Cuba two years after winning a bronze medal in the Beijing Olympics. Ugás

quit boxing for two years midway through the last decade, but revitalized his career and then capitalized on this golden chance by earning his 12th victory in his last 13 fights.

Ugás was in the spotlight only because Spence was forced to drop out last week after discovering he had a torn retina during a pre-fight physical. Ugás had been booked for a bout on the undercard, but he jumped at the type of showcase and payday that had been just out of reach ever since he left Cuba on a small boat bound for Mexico 11 years ago.

"I'm very excited, but most of all, I want to thank Manny Pacquiao for giving me this moment in this ring today," Ugás said through a



Yordenis Ugás, left, of Cuba, hits Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, in a welterweight championship boxing match Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

translator. "We only had two weeks of training, but I listened to my corner and it all worked out."

T-Mobile Arena appeared to be essentially sold out despite the late opponent change, and the crowd of

17,438 was vocally behind its Filipino hero. Even after a lengthy layoff in the last stages of his career, Pacquiao remains a surefire draw and a bankable star in a sport lacking both at its highest levels. □

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Gastronomic journey

Kick start the night with a great, refreshing and most delicious cocktail mixed with concoctions before the grand tour of an extraordinary culinary experience. Start your journey with an exquisite appetizer such as the daily fresh made Water's Edge ceviche or maybe a world known jumbo shrimp cocktail followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as the Spicy Caribbean Seafood pasta, Mahi Mahi or pan fried Red Snapper served with Aruban creole sauce or garlic lemon butter. For the carnivores among us there are choices of 8 ounce seasoned Filet Mignon, 12 ounce Rib Eye steak or a French Rack of Lamb

seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, co-



conut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans. Whether it is the best seafood, steaks, chicken, pasta, or your continental favorites the reasonably priced menu offers a modern twist and features generous portions and Chef's specials.

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Planning a birthday or anniversary dinner? Water's Edges Restaurants gives you the perfect gift. Here, you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

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Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. On Monday & Saturday, Angela Flores, will delight you with her violin. Tuesday, Jean Paul, Saxophonist, will get you moving. On Wednesday's and Sunday's singer Paula Ridderstap will make you sing along to all her tunes. Thursday's and Friday's

guitarist Ricky Thomas will make you find your groove. And also on Sunday's Tico Kock will make you dance away to the sounds of his steel drum. Whether you're in a romantic mood or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you. In addition, the best happy hour in Aruba happens right here. Water's Edge Restaurant offers three Happy Hours daily (12 noon – 1 pm, 4 pm – 6 pm, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres served by circulating staff, and again from 9 pm – 10 pm) with all premium brands specially priced.

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For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website www.watersedge-aruba.com

